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Lags Behind in Supplying Coal
Vecherni Novini, Sofia, 19 Sep 1951

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LAGS BEHIND IN SUPPLYING COAL -- Sofia, Vecherni Novini, 19 Sep 51

At the beginning of the current year the influx of coal into the warehouses of the "Toplivo" (Fuel) Enterprise was considerably surpassing the quantities ordered by workers at enterprises and departments. In the spring the warehouses of the enterprise were filled to the brim with coal which could not be disposed of. But later the situation changed radically.

The placing of collective orders began earlier this year than in the past, but was performed very unsatisfactorily. At Sofia and in other cities the managers of the local branches of the "Toplivo" Enterprise and responsible officials at enterprises and departments did not realize the full import of the fact that their own vital and very responsible task is to provide the population with fuel for the winter. Due to this fact, the supplying of coal, especially in Sofia, greatly lagged behind.

It is already the end of September, and yet hardly one half of the households in Sofia have been supplied with fuel. The orders are piling up fast, while the influx of coal into warehouses is insufficient. The mines are seriously lagging behind in the fulfillment of their plan for the delivery of coal for heating purposes. The plan for July for the delivery of heating coal has been fulfilled by 45.9 percent, of which 41.2 percent is brown coal and 69.9 percent is lignite. In August the situation did not improve, and during the first half of September the daily quantities of delivered coal have still been insufficient.

Nor has the quality of the delivered coal been sufficiently high. In striving to fulfill their production plans as to quantity, almost all mines have put aside the struggle to maintain the quality of the coal. The "Toplivo" Enterprise, on its part, has not endeavored diligently to check on the quality of the coal that it has received.

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Because it has lacked a well-equipped laboratory, the "Toplivo" Enterprise has not been in a position successfully to analyze the quality of the delivered coal soon enough to be able rightfully to refuse acceptance of coal not corresponding to contract stipulations. However, the laboratory is functioning regularly at present, and presumably the fight for high quality coal will be intensified.

It has been established that the demand for lignite coal on the part of consumers is small in spite of the fact that in the dried form in which it is sold by the "Toplivo" Enterprise in the summer, it has a high calory value and is considerably cheaper. Even the population of localities situated near lignite mines are avoiding the purchase of such coal. Only 13 percent of the inhabitants of Kharmanli have expressed the desire to have lignite, and the administrations of departments and organizations, such as the ONS, the DSNM, the Fatherland Front, and others, which are expected to promote the use and purchase of lignite among the population have not expressed the desire to purchase such coal themselves.

With respect to the deliveries of coal to the state, the "Toplivo" Enterprise also lags behind in fulfilling the plan, but in the warehouses there are sufficient quantities of wood to satisfy the needs of the population for the whole year. There is an abundance of kindling wood and charcoal which the citizens can buy from the stores of the "Narkoop", "Bakaliya", etc.

The mine administrations and Trade Union Committees must take all necessary steps to fulfill the plan for the delivery of coal. The quality of the coal must also be improved. It is essential to take the proper measures so that the high grade coal from the "D. Blagoev" pit and the "G. Dimitrov" shaft is not broken up into such small blockes that it loses its exterior appearance. The quality of the coal from the largest pit, the "Tolbukhin", particularly needs to be improved.

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The possibilities still exist for the general and timely fulfillment of the plan to deliver coal for heating purposes. By stepping up the production of high quality coal, not a single working person will need to remain without coal this winter. The fulfillment of this objective, however, requires that decisive measures be taken while there is still time.

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